Statistics and Indicators on Disabilities, Learning Difficulties and Disadvantages

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FOR DISABLED AND AT RISK STUDENTS IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Teacher Training Seminar and Meeting of Project Administrators

22-28 May 2006
Jerusalem, Israel

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1. The seminar is part of the project on “Education Development for Disabled and At-risk Students in South-East Europe”, which aims to improve the current situation of special needs education in close cooperation with nine ministries of education in South-East Europe. It is co-organised and co-funded by the Israeli Ministry of Education and the OECD.

2. The seminar on teacher training is a follow up to a meeting of headmasters and teachers, which was held in Zagreb in June 2005. The general direction and contents were agreed upon during a meeting of project administrators in Paris in December 2005. The Jerusalem meeting aims to continue discussions on the issue of inclusive education, emphasising the development of individual education programmes and the introduction of instruments for monitoring the progress of students in classrooms. The seminar will also take stock of progress made so far with already established model schools and pilot activities in the field of teacher training. It is also intended to identify teacher training-related components for the overall work programme for 2006/07.

3. Secondly, the meeting will also provide opportunities for exchanging views and information with participants from Israel: local teachers, experts and Ministry representatives will be directly involved in the programme. The seminar activities will be complemented by a study visit to Israeli institutions dealing with special needs education.

4. Thirdly, the gathering in Jerusalem will serve as a co-ordination meeting of project administrators and will discuss ideas for further disseminating the results and recommendations of the OECD reviews of Education Policies for Students at Risk and those with Disabilities in South Eastern Europe, which were published in March 2006. This discussion will address activities such as the translation of reviews into local languages or other dissemination activities.

5. Finally, all project administrators from South Eastern Europe will present the current status of micro projects on statistics and data gathering and together with representatives from the OECD will decide upon a mid-term plan and timeline for 2006/07.
AGENDA

22 May 2006

Arrival of participants. Participants will be met at Tel Aviv airport and brought to the seminar venue.

19:30

Welcome reception given by the State of Israel

Welcome addresses by the Israeli Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport and the OECD.

23 May 2006

08:30-09:00

General Orientation

09:00-10:00

Introduction to the Israeli school organisation and briefing for site visits.

In preparation for the site visits to take place on 24 May 2006, Israeli experts will provide an overview of the Israeli school organisation with special emphasis on education provision for students with special education needs. This presentation will be accompanied by a short briefing on the organisational details of the site visits.

The presentation will be given by Dr. Yaffa GEV, Director of International Affairs, Israeli Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport.

10:00-11:00

Working Session with all participants:

Teacher’s report on progress made and obstacles faced since Zagreb.

Each delegation from South Eastern Europe will provide a presentation of progress made and obstacles faced since the last meeting on teacher training in Zagreb in June 2005. The presentations will reflect on the activities of existing model schools, local teacher training activities and future needs in order to develop a concrete action plan for 2006/2007.

The session will be moderated by Darlene PERNER, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania.

11:00-11:30

Coffee Break

11:30-13:30

Working Session with all participants:

Exchange on country specific problems and solutions.

In order to exchange information between delegations on country specific problems
and solutions in the field of education for students with special needs, a general discussion will be held. This discussion will address issues such as the legal framework, school organisation, teacher training, involvement of parents and the local community, curriculum development and pedagogical concepts.

The session will be moderated by Dr. Ruth PEN, Director of the Special Education Division, Israeli Ministry of Education Culture and Sport.

13:30-15.00  Lunch Break

15:00-16:30  Working Session with all participants:

Obstacles and solutions to inclusive education from a pedagogical point of view.

This session will begin with an overview of general obstacles and solutions that appear to be shared internationally by administrators and teachers who are initiating inclusive education in their schools. The overview will also include the identification of new obstacles and solutions that have become apparent as inclusive education progresses in schools to date. This brief review will be followed by group discussions based on specific obstacles that are currently being faced by the participants. The groups will work together to share possible solutions that are relevant to the contexts presented in the working session.

The session will be moderated by Darlene PERNER.

The results of this session will be compared to the Israeli situation by Prof. Shunit REITER, Faculty of Education, University of Haifa.

16:30-17:00  Coffee Break

17:00-18:30  Working Session with all participants:

Obstacles and solutions to inclusive education:

This session will continue the discussions of the previous session. It will be moderated and summarised by Darlene PERNER.

There will be also the opportunity to watch the film CLASS LIFE, which tells the story of a semester in a fifth grade class, its various children, and the tremendous challenge involved in learning. Berlin's Fläming School is one of the most experienced German schools in the field of inclusive education with a program running since 1975.
24 May 2006

08:00-18:00  
Site Visits for participants from South Eastern Europe¹ and the OECD.

Site visits will cover primary and secondary schools and other institutions involved in education for SENDDD and will take place throughout the day. A detailed programme of these study visits will be provided on the first day of the seminar.

25 May 2006

09:30-11:00  
Parallel sessions:

1. Statistics and Data Gathering in Israel (project administrators).

Israeli experts will give an overview on the situation of statistics and data gathering in Israel with special emphasis on SENDDD. Participants have the opportunity to discuss open questions and clarify issues of interest.

Input will be provided by Mr. Chaim PORTNOI, Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics.

The session will be moderated by Gerhard KOWAŘ, OECD.

2. The Development of the IEP (all teachers and headmasters).

The focus of this interactive session will be a model for designing comprehensive education plans for students with disabilities. It is based on person-centred planning which includes the development of personalised educational goals. These personalised goals are formulated from the identification of the student’s strengths, needs and interests and are integrated into a comprehensive curriculum. Strategies for ensuring adequate student progress based on the student’s individual plan will be discussed and demonstrated.

The session will be moderated by Darlene PERNER.

11:00-11:30  
Coffee Break

11:30-13:00  
Parallel sessions continued:

1. Presentation of Micro-projects on Statistics and Data Gathering (project administrators).

Project administrators will present the general outlines and the current status quo of the OECD-supported micro-projects on statistics and data gathering. The session serves to inform about the topics, scope, activities and objectives of the micro projects. They will be presented by delegations from Bulgaria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia.

1 All participants (project administrators, headmasters and teachers) from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania and Serbia.
The session will be moderated by Gerhard KOWAŘ.

2. The Development of the IEP (all teachers and headmasters).

The focus of this interactive session will be a model for designing comprehensive education plans for students with disabilities. It is based on person-centred planning which includes the development of personalised educational goals. These personalised goals are formulated from the identification of the student’s strengths, needs and interests and are integrated into a comprehensive curriculum. Strategies for ensuring adequate student progress based on the student’s individual plan will be discussed and demonstrated.

The session will be moderated by Darlene PERNER.

13.00-14.30 Lunch Break

14:30-16:00 Parallel sessions continued:

1. Presentation of Micro-projects on Statistics and Data Gathering (project administrators).

Continuation of morning session.

The session will be moderated by Gerhard KOWAŘ.

2. The Development of the IEP (all teachers and headmasters).

Continuation of morning session.

The session will be moderated by Darlene PERNER.

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

16:30-18:00 Parallel sessions continued:

1. Presentation of Micro-projects on Statistics and Data Gathering (project administrators).

Continuation of the afternoon session.

The session will be moderated by Gerhard KOWAŘ

2. Monitoring of Student’s progress (teachers and headmasters).

Ensuring that students with disabilities make adequate progress toward their personalised goals is a critical skill for teachers. This working session will include the presentation of several strategies to assist teachers with the ongoing assessment of student progress. The progress monitoring techniques that will be demonstrated can help teachers decide whether students are making progress toward meeting their goals and whether instructional interventions are successful or need to be changed.
The session will be moderated by Darlene PERNER.

**26 May 2006**

09:00-10:30  **Project evaluation and planning for 2006/2007 (all participants from South Eastern Europe).**

Debriefing. The session will also address the following issues: the dissemination of results and recommendations of the OECD reviews on “Education Policies for Students at Risk and those with Disabilities in South Eastern Europe”; mid term action plan and timeline for 2006/07; location and contents of envisaged meeting in second half of 2006.

The session will be moderated by Gerhard KOWAR.

10:30-11:00  *Coffee Break*

11:00-12:30  **Project evaluation and planning for 2006/2007 (project administrators).**

Continuation of morning session.

The session will be moderated by Gerhard KOWAR.

13.30-14.30  *Lunch Break*

**Afternoon**  *Tour to the Dead Sea on the invitation of the Israeli government*

**27 May 2006**

08:30-18.00  **Excursion and sightseeing:**

Tour to the Old City of Jerusalem on the invitation of the Israeli government

**28 May 2006**

**Departure of participants**

Transfer to the airport for all participants will be organised.